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Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €202.3 million in March, compared to €131.7 million in the corresponding month in 2014.

## International Trade: March 2015

Cut-off date:  
4 May 2015

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in March stood at €202.3 million, up by €70.6 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2014. Imports registered an increase of €29.0 million while exports decreased by €41.6 million (Table 1a). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€103.9 million). Other increases were recorded for food, miscellaneous transactions and commodities, and beverages and tobacco. Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials accounted for the main decrease in the value of exports (€35.2 million). Other decreases were registered for machinery and transport equipment, beverages and tobacco, and miscellaneous transactions and commodities (Table 2).

### January-March 2015

During the first three months this year, the trade deficit widened by €300.7 million, to €675.0 million when compared to the corresponding period last year. Imports increased by €168.4 million, while exports registered a decrease of €132.3 million (Table 1a). The increase in imports was mainly due to machinery and transport equipment (€300.0 million), while the decrease in the value of exports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€126.4 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€35.2 million).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €693.5 million, or 45.7 per cent of total imports. There was a drop of €36.2 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period last year. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Canada (€292.8 million) and Italy (€29.9 million) respectively. On the export side the main increase was directed to the United Kingdom (€26.5 million), with Italy (€35.0 million) registering the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

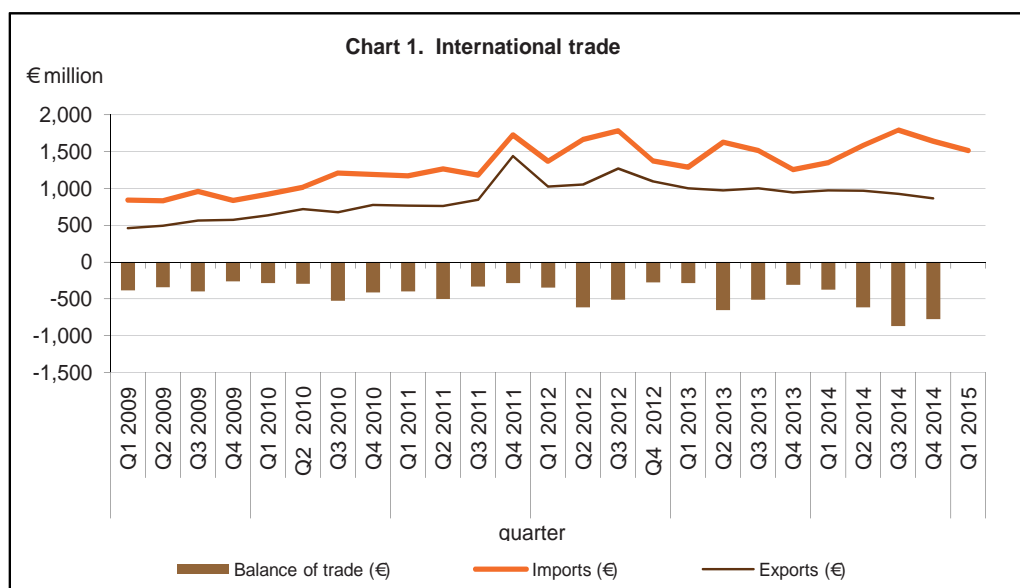
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Table 1a. Trade by broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	March		January-March	
			2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>5,688.5</b>	<b>6,368.7</b>	<b>476.7</b>	<b>505.7</b>	<b>1,348.4</b>	<b>1,516.8</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>1,549.8</b>	<b>1,405.1</b>	<b>109.1</b>	<b>116.5</b>	<b>363.2</b>	<b>333.5</b>
Primary	95.1	81.0	2.4	11.5	11.1	16.3
Semi-Finished	1,294.7	1,173.3	94.2	89.9	309.0	267.5
Finished	160.0	150.7	12.5	15.0	43.1	49.7
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>868.8</b>	<b>1,299.3</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>157.1</b>	<b>143.1</b>	<b>468.0</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>1,040.2</b>	<b>1,103.4</b>	<b>87.3</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>241.2</b>	<b>242.2</b>
Food and Beverages	451.0	468.6	34.7	32.5	99.4	93.6
Durable Goods	335.3	368.8	30.5	34.0	80.4	86.0
Others	253.9	265.9	22.1	23.7	61.4	62.6
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>2,229.7</b>	<b>2,561.0</b>	<b>220.0</b>	<b>141.9</b>	<b>600.8</b>	<b>473.1</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>3,925.5</b>	<b>3,733.9</b>	<b>345.0</b>	<b>303.4</b>	<b>974.1</b>	<b>841.8</b>
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-1,763.0</b>	<b>-2,634.8</b>	<b>-131.7</b>	<b>-202.3</b>	<b>-374.3</b>	<b>-675.0</b>

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 1b. Trade by broad economic category - last six quarters

€ million

Broad economic category	2013 Q4 <sup>P</sup>	2014 Q1 <sup>P</sup>	2014 Q2 <sup>P</sup>	2014 Q3 <sup>P</sup>	2014 Q4 <sup>P</sup>	2015 Q1 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>1,257.7</b>	<b>1,348.4</b>	<b>1,583.4</b>	<b>1,793.6</b>	<b>1,643.4</b>	<b>1,516.8</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>373.8</b>	<b>363.2</b>	<b>326.4</b>	<b>353.2</b>	<b>362.3</b>	<b>333.5</b>
Primary	22.3	11.1	19.0	29.8	21.1	16.3
Semi-Finished	310.5	309.0	271.9	293.0	299.5	267.5
Finished	41.1	43.1	35.5	30.3	41.8	49.7
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>198.2</b>	<b>143.1</b>	<b>290.0</b>	<b>401.2</b>	<b>465.1</b>	<b>468.0</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>275.3</b>	<b>241.2</b>	<b>289.0</b>	<b>282.4</b>	<b>290.7</b>	<b>242.2</b>
Food and Beverages	120.4	99.4	120.3	125.6	123.2	93.6
Durable Goods	90.3	80.4	97.0	90.3	101.2	86.0
Others	64.6	61.4	71.7	66.5	66.3	62.6
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>410.4</b>	<b>600.8</b>	<b>678.0</b>	<b>756.8</b>	<b>525.3</b>	<b>473.1</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>947.0</b>	<b>974.1</b>	<b>969.7</b>	<b>924.4</b>	<b>865.7</b>	<b>841.8</b>
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-310.7</b>	<b>-374.3</b>	<b>-613.7</b>	<b>-869.2</b>	<b>-777.7</b>	<b>-675.0</b>

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 1c. Exports net of fuels and lubricants

€ million

Broad economic category	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	March		January-March	
			2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>3,925.5</b>	<b>3,733.9</b>	<b>345.0</b>	<b>303.4</b>	<b>974.1</b>	<b>841.8</b>
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,665.7	1,608.2	135.1	99.6	435.1	308.4
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,259.8	2,125.7	209.9	203.8	539.0	533.5

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Balance of trade by major commodity groups

€ million

Major commodity group	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	March		January-March	
			2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>
			<b>Imports</b>	<b>5,688.5</b>	<b>6,368.7</b>	<b>476.7</b>
Food	503.9	501.8	33.6	41.1	104.4	102.2
Beverages and Tobacco	74.8	89.3	7.1	7.3	16.6	16.9
Crude Materials	26.4	24.2	2.0	1.3	4.9	5.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,235.8	2,563.3	220.0	143.3	600.9	474.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.5	8.7	0.6	0.5	2.1	1.8
Chemicals	440.4	503.0	43.2	39.6	117.7	122.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	311.0	339.0	28.5	27.1	85.1	75.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,668.1	1,910.5	106.7	210.6	321.7	621.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	398.7	417.0	34.2	33.5	92.5	92.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	20.9	11.9	0.9	1.4	2.4	3.9
<b>Exports</b>	<b>3,925.5</b>	<b>3,733.9</b>	<b>345.0</b>	<b>303.4</b>	<b>974.1</b>	<b>841.8</b>
Food	212.5	197.6	15.9	16.2	45.9	46.3
Beverages and Tobacco	35.5	45.3	3.5	2.5	9.7	7.2
Crude Materials	15.3	16.1	0.9	1.9	3.8	4.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,665.7	1,608.2	135.1	99.9	435.1	308.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	358.2	376.4	27.3	30.9	77.1	80.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	117.8	114.2	9.4	9.6	34.0	31.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,112.4	999.1	114.6	93.8	266.1	230.9
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	404.5	375.6	37.9	48.7	101.8	131.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	3.7	1.3	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.2
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-1,763.0</b>	<b>-2,634.8</b>	<b>-131.7</b>	<b>-202.3</b>	<b>-374.3</b>	<b>-675.0</b>
Food	-291.4	-304.2	-17.7	-24.9	-58.5	-55.9
Beverages and Tobacco	-39.3	-43.9	-3.6	-4.9	-6.9	-9.7
Crude Materials	-11.1	-8.1	-1.1	0.6	-1.1	-0.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-570.1	-955.1	-84.9	-43.3	-165.8	-165.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.5	-8.6	-0.6	-0.5	-2.1	-1.8
Chemicals	-82.2	-126.6	-15.9	-8.8	-40.6	-42.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-193.2	-224.8	-19.1	-17.5	-51.1	-44.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-555.7	-911.5	7.9	-116.8	-55.7	-390.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	5.7	-41.4	3.8	15.3	9.3	39.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-17.1	-10.6	-0.5	-1.4	-1.8	-3.7

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Notes:

1. The commodity breakdown is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Direction of trade

€ million

Region and Country	March						January-March					
	2014 <sup>P</sup>			2015 <sup>P</sup>			2014 <sup>P</sup>			2015 <sup>P</sup>		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade
<b>Europe</b>	<b>379.1</b>	<b>127.5</b>	<b>-251.6</b>	<b>308.3</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>-214.2</b>	<b>1,024.2</b>	<b>373.5</b>	<b>-650.7</b>	<b>894.1</b>	<b>273.5</b>	<b>-620.5</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
<b>European Union</b>	<b>273.8</b>	<b>113.6</b>	<b>-160.2</b>	<b>244.5</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>-159.5</b>	<b>755.4</b>	<b>317.0</b>	<b>-438.5</b>	<b>693.5</b>	<b>251.3</b>	<b>-442.2</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	24.6	8.6	-16.1	22.3	21.3	-1.1	83.1	22.2	-60.9	71.8	48.7	-23.0
Euro Area	218.1	91.2	-126.8	184.3	58.0	-126.3	569.3	257.1	-312.2	533.1	183.4	-349.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	98.0	34.5	-63.5	101.9	8.4	-93.4	279.4	66.2	-213.2	249.5	31.2	-218.3
Germany	40.7	25.9	-14.8	28.2	28.5	0.4	97.8	88.6	-9.3	77.4	73.1	-4.4
France	11.1	13.7	2.6	13.8	12.2	-1.6	47.0	49.0	2.0	40.2	52.2	11.9
Spain	31.4	2.2	-29.2	11.2	3.5	-7.7	55.8	11.9	-43.9	31.5	10.7	-20.8
Netherlands	9.9	2.2	-7.7	9.1	2.9	-6.2	32.6	11.3	-21.3	45.0	8.1	-36.9
Greece	2.1	8.1	5.9	8.4	0.4	-8.0	10.4	18.1	7.7	24.5	0.6	-24.0
<b>EFTA Countries</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>-38.8</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.3	2.2	-1.1	2.5	2.5	0.0	9.0	5.2	-3.8	9.2	7.2	-2.0
<b>Other European Countries</b>	<b>101.9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>-91.1</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>-54.8</b>	<b>222.5</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>-173.5</b>	<b>190.0</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>-176.3</b>
<b>Asia</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>139.7</b>	<b>207.9</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>166.8</b>	<b>203.3</b>	<b>36.5</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
China	7.4	4.3	-3.1	15.6	1.9	-13.7	27.1	8.6	-18.5	44.0	24.7	-19.2
Singapore	2.4	15.0	12.6	8.0	17.8	9.9	10.0	51.8	41.8	20.9	38.2	17.3
India	5.5	3.6	-1.9	7.4	4.8	-2.6	21.0	10.0	-11.0	24.4	5.8	-18.5
Japan	2.8	2.1	-0.8	6.3	1.0	-5.2	9.5	13.9	4.4	16.6	6.1	-10.6
Taiwan	2.4	0.1	-2.3	4.1	0.4	-3.7	6.9	0.4	-6.4	9.8	0.9	-8.9
<b>North and Central America</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>-31.6</b>	<b>111.4</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>-93.2</b>	<b>139.2</b>	<b>78.2</b>	<b>-61.0</b>	<b>400.4</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>-357.4</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Canada	17.2	3.0	-14.2	97.6	3.1	-94.5	18.3	8.1	-10.2	311.1	8.8	-302.2
<b>Africa</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>92.2</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>219.1</b>	<b>186.2</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>250.9</b>	<b>237.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Cameroon	0.1	1.0	0.9	5.8	1.2	-4.7	0.2	1.0	0.8	6.0	1.2	-4.8
<b>Australia and Oceania</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>South America</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>-5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Ships and Aircraft Stores</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>92.2</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>37.9</b>
<b>Caribbean and Bahamas Islands</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-9.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-10.8</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>476.7</b>	<b>345.0</b>	<b>-131.7</b>	<b>505.7</b>	<b>303.4</b>	<b>-202.3</b>	<b>1,348.4</b>	<b>974.1</b>	<b>-374.3</b>	<b>1,516.8</b>	<b>841.8</b>	<b>-675.0</b>

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Notes:

1. Arrivals/Dispatches relate to transactions with EU Member States.
2. Imports/Exports relate to transactions with Non-EU Member States (see methodological note 8 for country groupings).
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Trade by principal traded commodities

		€000			
Chapter number	Commodity description	March		January-March	
		2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Main imports</b>					
2	Meat and edible offal	3,717	3,408	10,991	11,035
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,558	3,312	10,482	9,305
10	Cereals	1,340	10,517	8,132	13,837
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,437	2,890	11,296	9,187
19	Preparations of cereals	4,601	4,851	12,719	13,547
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,328	2,241	6,085	5,445
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,242	2,710	7,901	7,306
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	4,025	3,897	10,490	11,070
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	3,128	3,482	6,209	5,927
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	220,033	143,276	600,935	474,534
28	Inorganic chemicals and compounds	731	2,242	1,571	3,355
29	Organic chemicals	14,850	7,932	35,338	36,488
30	Pharmaceutical products	8,958	10,797	28,001	31,756
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,772	2,806	8,513	6,910
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	4,032	3,101	9,960	8,134
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	2,050	2,228	5,617	5,422
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	11,639	11,911	33,077	35,683
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,094	4,981	21,750	20,405
61	Knitted clothing	3,363	3,077	9,277	10,380
62	Woven clothing	3,569	3,647	9,238	9,152
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,223	3,293	5,155	6,901
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	3,501	2,994	11,700	8,357
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,057	6,074	16,027	13,270
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	20,015	19,571	68,239	54,714
85	Electrical machinery etc.	42,679	46,548	160,118	129,948
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	9,894	11,000	28,163	30,861
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	25,256	114,678	40,604	354,299
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	9,751	20,284	26,266	54,451
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,964	4,254	13,081	15,259
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	4,886	5,400	12,572	12,495
<b>Main exports</b>					
19	Preparations of cereals	4,164	3,135	10,040	11,736
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	9,647	9,373	21,362	23,758
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	135,103	99,825	435,003	308,486
29	Organic chemicals	4,983	9,869	10,317	20,646
30	Pharmaceutical products	19,857	14,231	58,532	48,611
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,479	2,489	4,722	4,469
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	107	2,595	671	2,998
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	2,854	4,072	11,608	12,126
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,375	4,632	14,463	14,761
49	Printed books, newspapers	14,494	25,449	28,020	60,633
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,525	2,040	8,023	5,938
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,031	1,780	6,150	7,281
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	6,764	8,913	25,523	28,719
85	Electrical machinery etc.	101,928	72,361	211,273	180,905
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	1,158	3,838	3,412	7,274
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	4,772	7,366	25,910	12,622
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	39	2,006	346	2,398
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,071	5,861	15,175	17,974
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	10,308	8,628	29,191	26,334

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Note: The commodity breakdown is the Harmonised System (HS) Code at chapter level.

## Methodological Notes

1. Data in this release are based on:
  - a. the Intrastat Supplementary Declaration that traders in merchandise goods must submit in respect of Arrivals (Imports) and Dispatches (Exports) of goods from and to the Member States of the European Union (EU), in compliance with Legal Notice 131 of 2004; and
  - b. the Customs Declarations for imports from and exports to countries that are not Member States of the EU.
2. The Intrastat Supplementary Declaration for the collection of data on trade in goods between the Member States of the EU replaced the Customs Declaration as from 1 May 2004. The requirements of the Supplementary Declaration, which at EU level were introduced as from 1 January 1993, are similar in all the Member States of the EU.
3. As from May 2004, with the introduction of the Intrastat Supplementary Declaration as the source document for trade statistics, it was no longer possible to disaggregate total exports into domestic exports and re-exports.
4. The 'Balance of Trade' is the difference between a country's exports and imports. A country has a trade deficit if it imports more than it exports; the opposite scenario is a trade surplus.
5. This News Release is based on data available as on the cut-off date printed on the front page of this release. These are provisional figures based on information provided by traders on a monthly basis. Regular revisions to monthly and annual trade data may be carried out for up to two (2) years after the reference period. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
6. National concepts differ from the harmonised methodology used by Eurostat, leading to differences between figures in this release and those published by Eurostat. Malta uses the General Trade system for dissemination purposes, in line with UN recommendations. On the other hand, monthly data sent to Eurostat for both Intra-EU and Extra-EU are compiled according to the Special Trade methodology. A more detailed explanation of these two concepts can be found at <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=7>.
7. Individual countries' data not appearing in this release are available from the NSO upon request.
8.
  - i. Up to 31 December 2014, the euro area included Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia (from 2014), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. From 1 January 2015, the euro area also includes Lithuania. Trade data for Lithuania is included with the euro area data as from reference month January 2015.
  - ii. The European Union includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia (from July 2013), Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.
  - iii. EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries comprise Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:  
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>  
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=7>  
Classifications: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?>